

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott M. Schulte (Reg. No. 44,325) and Kevin Gualano on 4/22/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

In figure 6, in the block labeled as "S204", the recitation of "NUMBE" is changed to --NUMBER--.

In figure 6, in the block labeled as "S206", the recitation of "NUBBER" is changed to --NUMBER--.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record, namely, Sasaki (U.S. 5,228,118), Watanabe (U.S. 6,611,350) and/or Davidson, Jr. et al. (U.S. 5,636,333) do not disclose, teach or suggest, wherein the determining step includes comparing printing protocols which the

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terminal device supports with a printing protocol contained in the received information, the receiving step is repeated until the printing protocol contained in the received information coincides with one of the printing protocols which the terminal device supports, and the printing protocol which is firstly identified to be consistent with the one of the printing protocols which the terminal device supports is used to connect the terminal device to the target printer, as claimed in independent claim 1.

The closest prior art of record, namely, Sasaki (U.S. 5,228,118), Watanabe (U.S. 6,611,350) and/or Davidson, Jr. et al. (U.S. 5,636,333) do not disclose, teach or suggest, wherein the determining step includes comparing printing protocols which the terminal device supports with a printing protocol contained in the received information, the receiving step is repeated until the printing protocol contained in the received information coincides with one of the printing protocols which the terminal device supports, and the printing protocol which is firstly identified to be consistent with the one of the printing protocols which the terminal device supports is used to connect the terminal device to the target printer, as recited in independent claim 23.

The closest prior art of record, namely, Sasaki (U.S. 5,228,118), Watanabe (U.S. 6,611,350) and/or Davidson, Jr. et al. (U.S. 5,636,333) do not disclose, teach or suggest, a connection control system that receives information regarding printing protocols from an external device on the network, and compares printing protocols which said terminal device supports with a printing protocol contained in the received information, wherein said connection control system repeats said receiving and said comparing until the printing protocol contained in received information coincides with

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one of the printing protocols which said terminal device supports, wherein said connection control system uses a printing protocol which firstly identified to be consistent with one of the printing protocols which said terminal device supports so as to connect said terminal device to a target printer, as claimed in independent claim 26.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dov Popovici whose telephone number is 571-272-4083. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dov Popovici/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625